

Household Devotionals: Icons and Prayers

Royal Hours & the Nativity of Christ

Gospel for the First Hour

Matthew 1:18-25

The Doubts of Joseph

“Her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to send her away quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

- *Matthew 1:19-22*

Gospel for the Sixth Hour

Matthew 2:1-12

Adoration of the Magi

“When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.”

- *Matthew 2:9-11*

Gospel for the Third Hour

Luke 2:1-20

The Visitation of the Shepherds

“And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, “Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

- *Luke 2:8-11*

Gospel for the Ninth Hour

Matthew 2:13-23

The Flight Into Egypt & The Slaughtering of the Infants

“Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod.

- *Matthew 2:13-15*

The Nativity of Christ

December 25

A Hymn from the Sixth Royal Hour of Nativity Plagal of the Second Tone

Today, He who holds the whole creation in the hallow of his hand is born of the Virgin.

He whom in essence none can touch
is wrapped in swaddling clothes as a mortal

God who in the beginning founded the heavens
lies in a manger.

He who rained manna down on the people in the wilderness is fed on milk from His Mother's breast.

He who is the Bridegroom of the Church
calls unto Himself the Magi

The Son of the Virgin accepts their gifts.

We worship Thy nativity, O Christ. (*Thrice*)

Show us also thy divine Epiphany.

Kontakion of the Feast

Third Tone

Today the Virgin gives birth to Him who is above all being, and the earth offers a cave to Him whom no man can approach. Angels with Shepherds give glory, and Magi journey with a star. For unto us is born a young Child, the pre-eternal God.

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